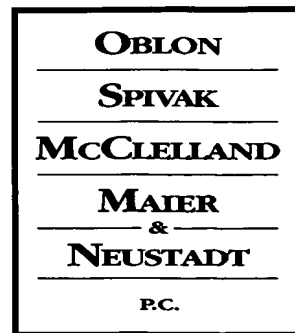




Docket No.: 246568US0

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

NORMAN F. OBLON  
(703) 413-3000  
NOBLON@OBLON.COM

RE: Application Serial No.: 10/734,482  
Applicants: Takuo SHIGEHISA, et al.  
Filing Date: December 15, 2003  
For: METHOD FOR DRYING PLANT-DERIVED  
BIOMASS AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING  
BIOMASS FUEL  
Group Art Unit: 1714

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**SECOND STATUS REQUEST FOR FIRST OFFICE ACTION (in duplicate)**

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
Norman F. Oblon

Roland E. Martin

Registration No. 48,082

Customer Number

**22850**

(703) 413-3000 (phone)  
(703) 413-2220 (fax)

DOCKET NO.: 246568US0/mms



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Takuo SHIGEHISA, et al.

SERIAL NO: 10/734,482

GROUP NO: 1714

FILED: December 15, 2003

FOR: METHOD FOR DRYING PLANT-DERIVED BIOMASS AND METHOD  
FOR PRODUCING BIOMASS FUEL

**SECOND REQUEST**

**FIRST OFFICE ACTION STATUS REQUEST**

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Patent Office is respectfully requested to inform the undersigned of the approximate date a first Official Action will be issued on this Application.

A duplicate of this letter is enclosed for your convenience.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
Norman F. Oblon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roland E. Martin".

Roland E. Martin  
Registration No. 48,082

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel. (703) 413-3000  
Fax. (703) 413-2220  
(OSMMN 10/04)